

These are parishes that have closed, but the dates of when they did so, is uncertain. Information that we have included is just an excerpt of history that we have found.

Chelsea Sacred Heart

History of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church Chelsea, South Dakota

In the early 1900's the Catholic families of this area enjoyed the privilege of having Sunday Mass once a month in their homes. The priests from Onaka traveled to the town of Chelsea by handcar of the M. & St. L. Railroad on Saturday afternoon. They would be met by one of the Catholic pioneers in the area and would spend the night with the family. On Sunday morning Mass would be offered in the home. The priest then enjoyed the hospitality of the various families, spent Sunday night, and offering Mass again on Monday morning, returned to Onaka by train on Monday afternoon. Shortly before the church was built, Mass was offered in the Chelsea Hall which was upstairs over the harness shop. Settlers from Cresbard and Northville, as well as the Chelsea area attended.

The Sacred Heart Catholic Church of Chelsea was completed in 1910 and blessed by Bishop Thomas O'Gorman. At that time the parish was served by priests from Onaka. Reverend Patricius A. Kietly served from 1910 to 1911. The builders were Joe Humphrey, Henry F. Reed, J. P. Joyn, Elmer Evans, and Matthew Green, who with their families, comprised the original parish family. Supplies for the church were obtained from the local lumberyard owned by Fred Nelson and from Northville. After the building was completed, the ladies took on the task of furnishing it. Mrs. Joyn and Mrs. Humphrey drove a horse and buggy throughout the countryside seeking donations to their cause. Mrs. Humphrey even wrote to President Howard Taft and received his check in the amount of \$25.00! The young people of the parish staged a play and a pie social which netted \$207.00!

On November 1, 1960 under the direction of Father Thomas J. Ryan, a sacristy addition was built by men of the parish. To the present time this is the only change in the original building.

On March 6, 1915 four Bohemian men left Tripp, South Dakota with their machinery and farm animals loaded on a train for Chelsea. Two weeks later their wives and families arrived in Chelsea, also by train, to join their husbands on farms they had acquired in the area. These people — Joe Carda, Joe Cihak, Thomas Cihak, and James Carda, along with their wives and families, became part of Sacred Heart parish. Thomas and Joe's father, Frank, also came.

These are some of the first baptisms recorded in Onaka of babies from Sacred Heart parish: Father Kietly baptized Tom McClosky born April 2, 1910 and baptized May 15; Edward Leo Manning born January 30, 1910 and baptized on May 22; Thomas Reed born July 13, 1910 and baptized on July 24; and Margareta Lucille Evans born January 19, 1911 and baptized on February 25, 1911. (This baby, Margareta Evans, may have been the first baby baptized in the church in Chelsea. Most of the babies in the early days of the parish were baptized in the homes. It is also possible that Louis Carda born in June of 1915 was the first baby baptized in the church.) On August 17, 1924 Aloysius Kryszpolski who was born on July 13 of that year was baptized by Father A. Sieber, OMI. Aloysius was later ordained a priest, and is the only known vocation from Sacred Heart parish.

Agnes Humphrey (Miller), Agnes Reed (Henning) and George Reed comprised the first



Columbia St. Michael

Columbia (Brown County)

Columbia began its history with the erection of Father Haire's sod church in 1880... must have been well constructed for there is no mention of another building until 1910. Then, a frame church was erected at a cost of \$3,000 and the name was changed from St. Columba to St. Michael. By then Columbia was in a state of decline, having lost the county seat to Aberdeen. Catholics were served in turn out of Huron, Aberdeen, Ipswich, Frankfort, Zell and Bristol. In 1903 Father W. S. Kane too, up residence, serving also 4 missions and three stations. He was succeeded in 1904 by F. X. Feldmaier who ministered to St. Columba's and to a reduced number of missions until 1909. It was under Father A. J. Kraus (1909-13) that St. Michael's Church was erected. He was succeeded by Fathers P. G. Ryan (1913-16) and R. J. Keefe (1916-17). By then the number of Catholics had so decreased that the parish was unable to support a resident priest. St. Michael's was reverted to Mission status and was attached to Inella.

Conde St. John

NOTES FROM CONDE'S 100th ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
1886 -- 1986

The first Catholic settlers in the Conde area attended Mass in school houses, or in homes of local families. Visiting priests, often missionaries who traveled through the Dakotas, conducted these services and ministered to the people.

On July 7, 1883 Father Pierott, a missionary solemnized the first Catholic marriage in the Conde area. He witnessed the marriage of Catherine Schillinger and Joseph Lens, settlers from Stacyville, Iowa. They became the parents of Raymond, Edward, Ben, Bert, and Leone Lens.

From 1886 to 1901 a priest from Frankfort came to say Mass once a month. During the 1902 to 1909 Father D. R. Guenard of Turton parish came every two weeks to say Mass. It was in 1904-1905 the congregation decided to build a church in Conde. The bell that still hangs in the church tower was donated by Raymond Lens, who had come from Germany. The first altar was donated by his sons, Joseph and Tony Lens. Their names appear in front of it.

At first benches were used--later pews were purchased. Throughout the years, many articles were donated, such as statues, holy water font, vestments, the present day altar, chalice and glass doors to the front entrance, the microphone and speaking system along with numerous other items.

1907-1908 Records show that lots 1, 2, and 3 where church and rectory stand were received from Western Town Lot Company. Edward Wettstein and Michael Hynes were trustees. Articles of Incorporation were filed early in 1912. At that time Thomas O'Gorman was bishop, F. A. Flynn, Vicar General, Rev. Luke Murphy, pastor; Michael Hynes and Raymond J. Lens Trustees.

Feb. 23, 1906 the first funeral in the church of John Hynes, Sr., a native of Ireland, who had come from Spink County in 1882 and filed on his homestead adjoining Conde. He left a wife and 7 children, Mrs. Ellen Penrick, Mrs. Anna Hildebrand, Thomas Hynes, John Hynes, Jr., Catherine Hynes, Edward and Michael Hynes. Interment took place in the new cemetery on land which he had donated to the church. His grave was the first to be placed there.

The first marriage in the new church was that of Mary (Maude) Lens, daughter of Gertrude and Anton Lens, and Thomas Earl King, son of Christina and Fred King all of Conde. The wedding was on April 19, 1909 by Rev. Luke Murphy, who became the first resident priest. He guided the parish 11 years.

1945--St. John's Church received Lot Four from Spink County. Through the years many improvements were made. The sanctuary and sacristies were added to the south end of the original building. A new entrance was made on the north end. The floor has been carpeted, a new organ has been installed, the rectory and the entry to the church have been remodeled. The evergreens planted by Father Frank Majusiak are growing and doing well.

During the years Father Nally served (1960-1971) the Ford Casare building was purchased and became the Catholic Hall where many functions have been held.

May 28, 1981--The Catholic parish and members of the community were saddened by the sudden and unexpected death of Father Donald Koehn.

Long ago the ladies of St. John's Church organized the Altar Society. At first its primary function was to care for the altar, keeping the linens neat and clean. Later three groups were formed, St. Ann's Group, St. Catherine's Group and St. Theresa's Group. They held many bazaars, potluck meals, etc. During the year 1980 the women served dinners to the public every Monday.



Doland St. Joseph



Doland (Spink County) St. Joseph

Early Catholic settlers around Doland depended for their religious services on bearded, ever-traveling Father Robert W. Haire who first appeared in the area in June of 1881. From 1884 to 1886 Father Joseph Perreault of Frankfort made regular trips to Doland. Father Domace R. Guenard of Turton ministered to them from 1901 to 1910 after which the mission was returned to Frankfort. It was during Father Guenard's ministry in 1907 that the first St. Joseph Church was built. Two years later a storm wrecked the building but another was constructed immediately.

Doland, a mission of Frankfort since 1953, planned for a more fitting house of worship. To increase the building fund the St. Joseph Altar Society opened a snack bar in 1959 at the South Dakota State Fair in Huron and operated it annually. By 1967 the fund had grown sufficiently to go ahead with the building. In 1968 St. Joseph Church and CCD Center was built, also providing space for social activities of the 40 Catholic households. (CD)

Frankfort St. Ann

Our Historical Past

St. Ann's first church was built in 1884. A tornado destroyed it the summer of 1885. A second church was erected in 1886, but not finished until 1891. Mass was said twice a year.

The first pastor to say mass was Father Perreault who came five to seven times. Our first resident pastor was Father Bauer.

In 1888 Mrs. Barbara (Valder) Robinson, rode horseback throughout the countryside, asking for donations to purchase an organ. This organ was in use until 1960 when a new electric organ was purchased. Barbara Robinson was organist for 65 years. Her daughter, Zita Liebig has been organist since.

In 1889, a beautiful High Altar was donated. On June 23, 1889 the first Catechism class received their First Holy Communion. In 1890 the first Altar Society was organized. Michael Lambert built the organ loft and stairway. John Kalscheuer donated oil paintings of the Stations of the Cross.

In November 1910 a rectory was built. In 1985 it was sold and moved.

On March 19, 1922 the church burned along with all its contents. The present church was built that summer and dedicated on Ash Wednesday, 1923. Bishop Mahoney blessed the church and had confirmation on June 19, 1923.



Interior of St. Ann Church

Lee Hughes and Hazel Halstead were the first couple to be married in the new church.

In 1960 the basement was completely dug out and an extension added on to make room for the furnace and a kitchen. New stained glass windows were also installed.

In 1985 the church was carpeted, the sanctuary repainted and an acoustical ceiling installed in the basement. In 1988 the basement was completely carpeted after tiling had been put in.

June 22, 1997 the steeple was struck by lightning and destroyed. A new steeple was put up in July 1998.

Many wonderful priests have served St. Ann's with Father John Fischer being our present pastor.



Your Church 1922 Frankfort

Java Holy Mary

Java --Mission.

Believe it or not Java --tiny Java had a church of its own. Its history is short-lived. Looking at the baptismal records of Father Joe Schell who wrote his records like he travelled here and there and everywhere--in one of his listings and only one--and only one page is devoted to the name of the Church--in Latin--he wrote Sanctae Mariae--signifying the name of the Catholic Church in Java above a baptism administered on December 27th 1894. Other pages that have baptisms and names in the margin and the name of the town Java do not have Sanctae Mariae written.

Father Schell used to stay overnight with the Swift family whenever he came to celebrate Mass in Selby. Most of Masses in Java were on week days. The Clements family of Java ran the Java Herald in those days and the Herald is still printed but in Selby. I have approached the Selby Record which also prints the Java Herald on information for the short-lived church in Java. There is nothing in the Herald and nothing in the Selby Record on Saint Mary Church. Some say that the small church whose congregation consisted of 22 people or so in 1908 was named only Catholic Church--some say it was named St. Martin Church and some go so far as to say it was the same name as the Selby Church--St. Anthony. However we got ourselves straightened out on the name--and according to the baptismal records the one instant the name was used was St. Mary.

Fritz Clements, who started the The Java Herald, Fritz talks about Catholic funerals interesting him at that time because he and his parents lived across the street from the Catholic Church. Mrs. Swift talks about a group of men buying a house and moving to the east side of town and making it the first Catholic Church in Java. When payments could not be made on the amount the town folk were supposed to pay -- the church went into bankruptcy and folded up in about 1913 or 1914 from reports of those who remember the plight of the Catholic Church then, Fritz Clements and his son Bruce continue to print the Selby Record and the Java Herald.



New Steeple for St. Ann's



1928 First Communion Class with Fr. Fischer